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Environmental assessment for Hauser Lake
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March 19, 1992

1404 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena 59620
Director's Office, Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences
Jim Posewitz, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks,
1420 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
Fisheries Division, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks,
1420 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
Wildlife Division, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks,
1420 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society Montana State Library
Regional Information Officer, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1420 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620
Board of County Commissioners, Lewis & Clark County Courthouse, Helena, MT 59623
Kathy Macefield, Lewis & Clark County Planning Office, Lewis & Clark County Courthouse, Helena, MT 59623
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hirst, Hirst & Associates, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Hauser Lake State Park, Black Sandy Site, Lake in Lewis & Clark County, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until April 17, 1992. All comments should be sent to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Gubbins

Patrick J. Gubbins
Regional Parks Manager, R-8
Dept Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division
(406)444-4720

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Enclosures

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PART I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Campground upgrading and redesign

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action (Montana Code Annotated and Administrative Rules of Montana citations): MCA-23-2-101

3. Name of Project Hauser Lake State Park, Black Sandy Site

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency) Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Region 8, 1404 8th Avenue. Phone # (406)444-4720

5. Estimated Construction/Commencement Date Spring 1993

   Estimated Completion Date Fall 1993

   Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 10% complete - remainder in preliminary planning stage, pending more public input. There has been a facilities design user preference survey that was conducted in the summer of 1991. There will be a public open house on April 10, 1992.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township) Lewis & Clark County - T12N R2W Sec 23 - T11N R2W Sec 5

7. Project size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

   a. Developed:
      Residential......______acres
      Industrial.......______acres

   b. Open Space/Woodlands/
      Recreation....... 44 acres

   c. Wetlands/........______acres
      Riparian Areas

   d. Floodplain........____acres

   e. Productive:
      Irrigated Cropland____acres
      Dry Cropland......____acres
      Forestry..........____acres
      Rangeland.........____acres
      Other.............____acres

8. Map/site plan: See attached map.

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project for Which Agency Approval or Funding is Requested.

   Proposed action involves road improvement and redesign, handicapped access development, leveling of parking area, installation of comfort station (flush toilets & showers) and boat docks.

This property is owned by Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Nine acres of the 53 acres was acquired from M.P.C. and the additional 44 acres was acquired from B.L.M.

This project is going to have D-J funds so the D-J application will be filled out as well as the NEPA checklist. This will be accomplished after all of the public input has been solicited.

10. Alternatives, Including Mitigation, That Have Been Proposed or Considered:

A no action alternative would result in continued overuse of existing site, which is undesirable from a resource & recreational management standpoint. There is compaction and bank erosion problems that is occurring due to overuse. Social problems, such as arguments, may result from people camping in confined areas.

11. Agencies From Which Permits or Other Approvals Have Been/Will Be Sought:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#

State Historic Office 106 cultural compliance has been received.
Approval from Lewis & Clark County will be sought .
Army Corp of Engineers permit has been applied for by consultant.
State Department of Health
State Building Codes

12. Agencies or Programs From Which Financial Assistance Will Be Sought:

Agency Name	Funding Amount
DJ Federal Aid	$262,500
State	87,500

13. Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Fisheries, Wildlife, Non game)
State Historical Society
Lewis & Clark County

14. Name(s) of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Pete Johnson, Parks Operation Specialist, Region 8, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Patrick Gubbins, Region Parks Manager, Region 8, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
1. LAND RESOURCES					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructures?		X			
b. Disruption, displacement erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X			
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X			
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X			
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazards?		X			
f. Other:______________					
2. AIR					
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see #13 (c))		X			
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X			
______________					
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally:		X			
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X			
e. Other:______________					

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
3. WATER					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X			
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X			
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X			
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X			
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X			
f. Changes in the quality of ground water?			X		
g. Changes in the quantity of ground water?		X			
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or ground water?			X		
i. Effects on any existing water rights or reservations?		X			
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or ground water quality?		X			
k. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or ground water quantity?		X			
l. Other:______________					

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
4. VEGETATION					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X			
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X			
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X			
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity or any agricultural land?		X			
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		
f. Other:______________					
5. FISH/WILDLIFE					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X			
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X			
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X			
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X			
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X			
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			X		
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X			
h. Other:______________					

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X			
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X			
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X			
e. Other: ________________					
7. LAND USE					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X			
b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X			
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X			
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X			
e. Other: ________________					
8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS					
Will the proposed action involve:					
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X			

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X			
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X			
d. Other: ______					
9. COMMUNITY IMPACTS					
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X			
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X			
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X			
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X			
e. Changes in cultural diversity or uniqueness?		X			
f. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X			
g. Other: ______					
10. PUBLIC SERVICES TAXES/UTILITIES					
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: ______ ______		X			

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenue?		X			
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X			
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X			
e. Other: ________					
11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X			
b. Alteration of the aesthetic of character of a community or neighborhood?		X			
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings?			X		
d. Other: ________					
12. CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES					
Will the proposed action result in:					
a. Destruction of alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X			
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X			
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X			
d. Other: ________					

	UNKNOWN	NONE	MINOR	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT	CAN IMPACT BE MITIGATE BY PROJECT CHANGE?
13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Does the proposed action, considered as a whole:					
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X			
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X			
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X			
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X			
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X			

PART III. IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION OPTIONS

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

Impact evaluations to water

f&h Consultation with Glen Phillips, Pollution Control Biologist with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, stated that there may be some minor localized increases in nutrient concentrations and oxygen demands. He stated that there may be some localized increase in coliform bacteria also. However, there should be no substantive negative impacts.

All sanitary systems will be in accordance with DHES standards and will be approved as such. The system will be monitored regularly through the spring/summer/early fall season.

PART III. IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION OPTIONS

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

Impact evaluations to vegetation

e. To prevent establishment or spread of noxious weeds the equipment to be brought in will be steam cleaned.

PART III. IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION OPTIONS
(attach additional sheets as necessary)

Impact to Fish & Wildlife

f. Bald Eagles utilize areas near this site for feeding, nesting and perching. In addition a significant concentration a fall migrants occur in the area in response to a spawning run of Kokanee Salmon. Management steps have been taken to protect bald eagles from any negative impacts in the project area. Biologists are generally concerned with any construction that occurs within 1/2 mile of a nest. The closest nest sites are four miles away. The construction activities would produce an insignificant effect on the bald eagles.

Peregrine Falcons are being re-introduced in the general area and continue to use habitats in the vicinity during post fledgling. Occasional migrants may also occur on a very transient basis. This project would have no bearing on habitat use by either migrant or resident peregrine, as the construction site would be 5 miles E, SE of a potential re-introduction site.

PART III. IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION OPTIONS

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

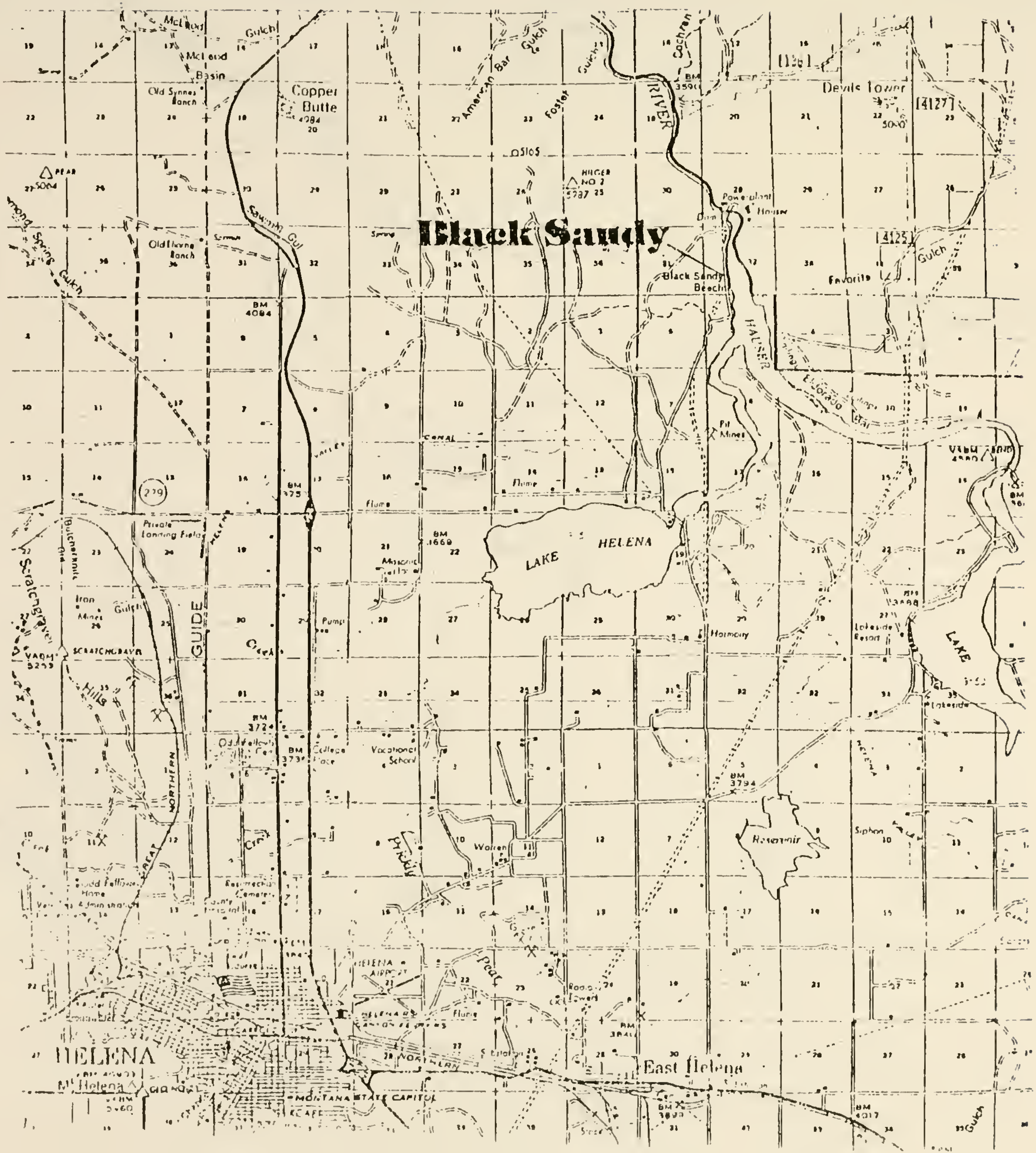
Impact evaluations to noise levels

a. Noise levels will increase in the project area but only during the time it takes to complete the project.

PART III. IMPACT EVALUATION AND MITIGATION OPTIONS
(attach additional sheets as necessary)

Impact evaluations to aesthetics/recreation

c. The park will be closed during the time it takes to complete the project, which will create a negative impact to recreationalist during this time. YorK Bridge State Park will provide an alternative for these people.


Black Sandy
Black Sandy Beach
McLeod Gulch
McLeod Basin
Old Synnes Ranch
Copper Butte
4084
Old Thorne Ranch
Sawmill Gul
American Bar Gulch
Foster Gulch
Cochran Gulch
RIVER
Devils Tower
[4127]
[4125]
Favorite
Gulch
Powerplant
Dam
House
Hilger No 2
3737
5105
HAUSER
Eldorado Bar
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LAKE HELENA
Harmony
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LAKE
Lakeside
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Iron Mines
Gulch
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Scratchgravel Hills
Butcherknife
Pump
Creek
College Place
Vocational School
Odd Fellows Cem
Warren
Prickly Pear
Radio Tower
Helena Airport
NORTHERN
GREAT NORTHERN
Resurrection Cemetery
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East Helena
Gulch
BM 3794
BM 3724
BM 3660
BM 4017
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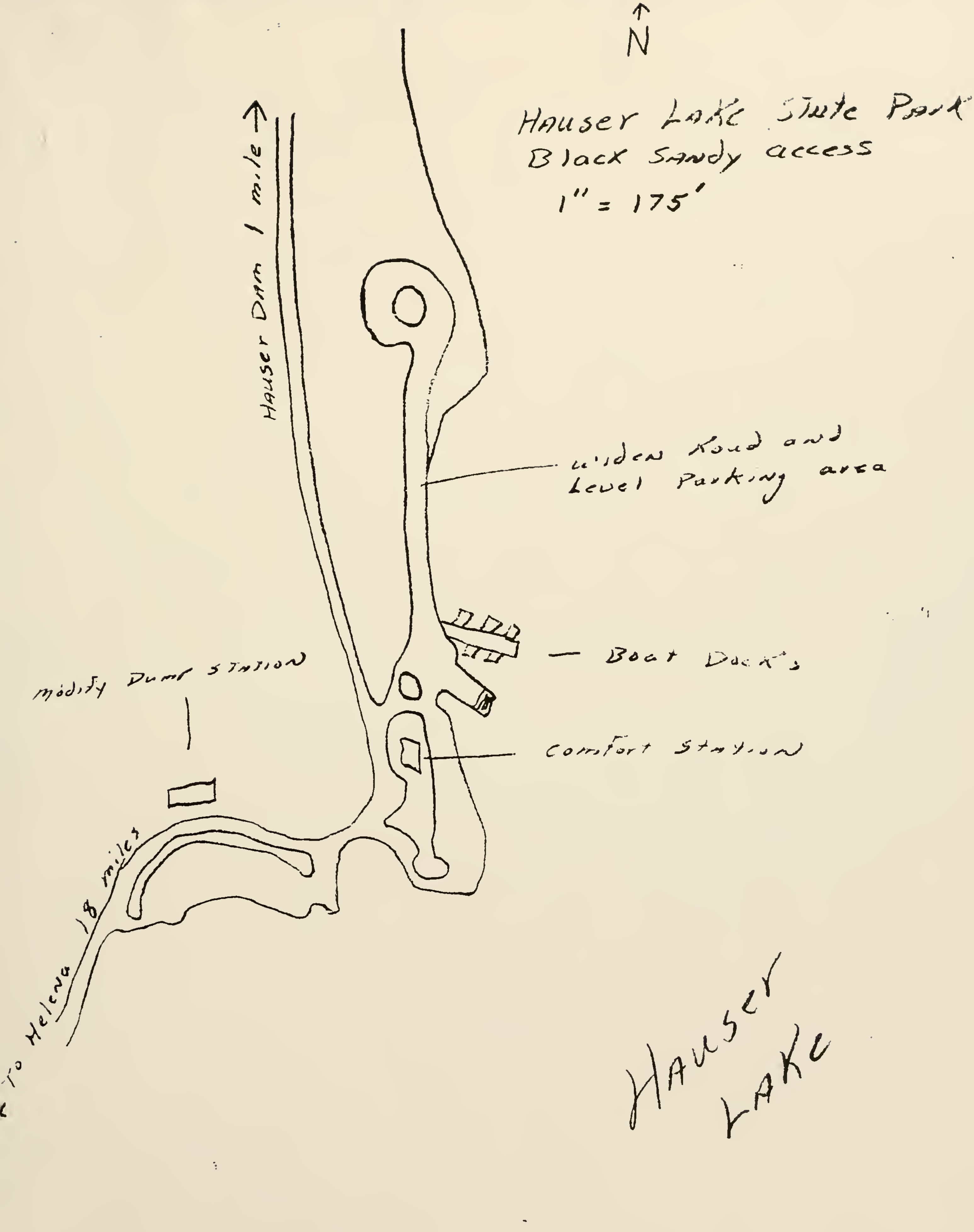

Hauser Lake State Park
Black Sandy access
1" = 175'